

## Roseburg Library Encourages Reading Graphic Novels Kris Wiley and Aurora Ropp for The News Review

Graphic novels are a big hit at Roseburg Public Library, and we love to see people of all ages engaging with this dynamic format.

Graphic novels refer to books that combine text and images to create a narrative. There are conversations about the difference between comic books and graphic novels, but we default to the term “graphic novel.”

Readers don’t care what they’re called; they simply devour these books. And we continue to develop this area of the library’s collection because we believe graphic novels are as valuable as traditional books.

We support the assertion that graphic novels are “real” books. They are formatted and organized in a different way than traditional novels, but they offer the same benefits – and additional advantages for many readers.

Just like traditional novels, graphic novels have exciting plots with complex characters that require analyzing, thereby developing reading comprehension skills with the bonus of improving visual literacy skills. In addition, the combination of images and text creates an appealing format for all readers, including those who otherwise may be reluctant to sit down with a book. Plus, the dynamic nature of graphic novels inspires creativity and connections between art and literature.

In total, the library has 3,300 graphic novels in physical format with digital titles available through the cloudLibrary and Libby electronic books platforms.

The library has 1,450 junior graphic novels on the shelves, including popular series such as Dog Man by Dav Pilkey and Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales series. Adaptations of traditional novels such as Ann M. Martin’s The Baby-Sitters Club series and the Warriors series by Erin Hunter fly off the shelves.

Junior graphic novels represent 2 percent of the entire library collection but have accounted for 4.5 percent of all checkouts in 2023.

Teens also gravitate toward graphic novels, especially manga, which is a distinct format that originated in Japan and most often publishes in serial format. Popular series include My Hero Academia by Kohei Horikoshi, Chainsaw Man by Tatsuki Fujimoto and Demon Slayer by Koyoharu Gotouge.

The library has 1,450 young adult graphic novels, representing 2 percent of the collection, and they have accounted for 3 percent of checkouts this year.

Graphic novels for adults represent 0.5 percent of the library's collection and 0.3 percent of checkouts. The most popular series is Robert Kirkman's *The Walking Dead*, upon which the hit TV series was based.

Whether you're a seasoned reader or new to graphic novels, library staff are here to offer suggestions and talk about your reading experience. We love graphic novels, too!

### This Week's Library Events

Tuesday, October 24, 10 a.m. – Grab-and-go craft kits while supplies last

Wednesday, October 25, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, October 25, 4 p.m. – Club de Idioma Español | Spanish Club for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Thursday, October 26, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, October 26, 4-5 p.m. – Seasonal Kids Crafts

Thursday, October 26, 6:30 p.m. – Silent Book Group

Friday, October 27, 10:30 a.m. – iOS Basics (registration required)